

MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF COUNCIL

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 21st June 1982 commencing 7 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Chairman

Mr. J. N. Black
Mr. A. Dash
Mr. A. Gill
Mr. E. J. Long
Mr. B. H. Macintosh
Mr. J. Mitchell
Mr. M. Rundle
Mr. G. J. Simm
Mr. O. J. Slattery

Executive Officer
Employment Co-operative
Development Adviser

2. MINUTES

Note was taken that apologies for absence from the meeting held 17th May 1982 were not recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

With the addition of

"Para 1

Apologies for absence received from

Mr. A. Dash
Mr. M. Rundle
Mr. G. J. Simm"

the minutes of the Council meeting held 17th May 1982 were confirmed and adopted as a correct record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i Minute 5.iii - Purchase of Photocopier

Council discussed quotations for 4 different makes of photocopier and agreed

to purchase one TOSHIBA BD 4501 machine with 3 key counters at a discounted price of \$2,595.

3.ii Minute 11 - Alternates for Councillors

A person be nominated by Mr. Gill to Council who could attend Council meetings as an observer when Mr. Gill is unable to be present. Notices of meetings and minutes will be issued to both persons.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.i From Premier - acknowledging introductory letter from Federation

4.ii From Minister of Housing - appointing

Mr. E. J. Long
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson

members of the Co-operative Societies Advisory Council for a period of three years from 25th May 1982.

4.iii From Minister of Employment and Training

recording appreciation for briefing visit by Federation deputation and seeking proposals for implementing loan scheme to employment co-operatives and views on conversion of businesses into community co-operatives.

4.iv From President, Co-operative Federation of Australia

advising retirement from office and Council on 30th June 1982

Council recorded its appreciation to Mr. Hunter for his leadership of the national Council and his contributions to the international level of Co-operation. In particular Council recorded its appreciation for Mr. Hunter's personal efforts to assist the Co-operative Federation of Victoria towards its present state of development by arranging the joint use of Secretariat and Staff services with the Co-operative Federation of Australia.

4.v Hansard - reply from State Treasurer to question advising cost to Victoria of honouring the loan guarantee to Co-operative Farmers and Graziers Direct Meat Supply Ltd. was \$3.8 million.

4.vi To Trading Co-operative members of the Federation

calling meeting in Melbourne on Thursday, 24th June 1982.

5. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

were received from

Frankston Motor Cycle Park Co-operative Ltd.,
Sybylla Co-operative Press and Publications Ltd.

together with Rules and relevant affiliation dues.

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6. FINANCE

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7. ANNUAL

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8. REGISTRATION

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Council welcomed both these Co-operatives into membership of the Federation with agreement that fees paid will cover the period ending 30th June 1983.

6. FINANCIAL

- 6.i The Statement of Income and Expenditure covering the period 1.7.81 to 31.5.82 together with an estimated Balance Sheet of the Federation's financial affairs, as at 31st May 1982, was submitted to the meeting. The statement dissected income and expenditure of the Community Employment Co-operatives Development Programme and other Federation income-expenditure.

After due discussion the financial statement was received and adopted.

- 6.ii Council considered the alternative budget showing consolidated and separate expenditure estimates for C.F.A., C.F.V. and E.C.D.P. for year ending 30th June 1983, circulated since the last meeting.

After due discussion it was agreed

the draft budget appended to these minutes be adopted as the Federation's budget for the financial year commencing 1st July 1983.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 7.i Formal notice of the 1981 Annual General Meeting and invitations for nomination of Councillors was issued on 20th May 1982. Closing date for Council nominations is 30th June 1982.

- 7.ii Printed brochures advertising details of the 1982 Conference were tabled.

- 7.iii Consideration was given to the formation meeting of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. It was agreed

twelve member Co-operatives be contacted to ensure compliance with Co-operative Societies Regulations 1982, Section 17.

8. REGIONAL MEETINGS

Council confirmed the decision to defer the Regional Meeting, scheduled for Bendigo on 22nd June 1982, due to lack of adequate support.

It was agreed

a Regional meeting be organised in Shepparton in Autumn 1983.

9. LEGISLATION

9.i

Reference was made to Minute 9.iii of the May 1982 meeting. The Co-operative Societies Advisory Council have agreed to provide a legal ruling on the eligibility of Co-operative Societies to distribute surplus as bonus shares or debentures as an alternative to cash.

9.ii

Co-operative Societies (General) Regulations 1982 have now been published. A copy was tabled for information of Council.

10. REPORTS

10.i

Community Employment Development Programme

(a) Mr. Greer reported that an Education and Training service under the Programme is now operational under direction of a committee comprising representation from

Ministry, Employment & Training
Co-operative Federation
Employment Co-operatives

under administration of Vocational Orientation Centre.

(b) He reported that regular information exchange meetings have been arranged between Co-operatives Adviser staff and Ministry staff monitoring the Programme.

(c) Council agreed

*to visit Brunswick Work Co-operative from
4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 19th July
to meet directors, management, members to
study one Employment Co-operative in action
and exchange information.*

(d) Council recorded its endorsement of the policy of increased co-operation amongst co-operatives but expressed reserve on tenuous agency arrangements of one co-operative being promoted as a co-operative venture.

(e) Mr. Gill reported on a meeting of 30 Employment Co-operative representatives at Maryborough on 6th June 1982. Discussion had taken place on the desirability of forming an association of

(a) Employment Co-operatives

(b) Worker Members

Problems confronting (a) are the variety of types of Co-operatives registered as employment co-operatives.

One object of (b) is to relate to trade unions on behalf of Co-operatives.

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The group has planned a seminar on 10th July 1982 at Loch Ard Co-operative, Warrnambool with the theme "Survival or Success".

The next group meeting has been arranged for 4th July 1982.

Mr. Long reminded Mr. Gill as representative of Employment Co-operatives that any proposals for legislative amendments from the group brought to the Federation would, after agreement, be submitted by the Federation members to the Co-operative Societies Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is keen to learn of the aspirations and operations of Employment Co-operatives and its policy is to assist in any practical productive way.

Council reaffirmed its acceptance of the need for continuous and close liaison with Employment Co-operatives and all other types of Co-operatives in Victoria.

10.ii Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported that the first meeting of the reconstituted Advisory Council under the Co-operation Act 1981 met on 10th June 1982. The Advisory Council comprises

Chairman - ex officio - The Registrar

Members

- Mr. Bill Kilpatrick - Solicitor to
Ministry of Housing
- Mr. Keith Hall - Chartered Accountant,
Hungerfords
- Mr. John Wenn - Treasury
- Mr. Ted Long - (Co-operative
- Mr. Bill - (Federation of
Rawlinson (Victoria)
- Mr. Kris Flowers

Secretary

In addition to considering an accumulation of applications for loan guarantees the meeting was advised that Federation requests for increased grant and Government support for T.V. video production on Co-operatives have been supported by the Minister and included in the 1982/83 Advisory Council Budget.

The Ministry is currently considering development of a new type of Co-operative related to Tenant Management.

Federation representatives re-submitted the issue of eligibility of directors and the restriction on worker members to become directors.

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10.iii Co-operative Federation of Australia

Mr. Slattery reported on a meeting of the Steering Committee held in Sydney on 4th June 1982.

(a) The first part of the meeting was concerned with the Consultants' report on the Co-operative Bank proposal. The report was presented by Mr. Clive Little of Deloitte, Haskins and Sells. The Steering Committee agreed the report justified a continuance of the study to include Permanent Building Society and Credit Union involvement without whom the exercise on viability potential cannot be completed.

A working party is to be established comprising 2 representatives from each sector of Co-operatives. It will have its first meeting in Melbourne on 9th July 1982. The C.F.A. nominees are

Mr. Silsbury, Westralian Farmers Co-operative
Mr. Allen, Victorian Producers Co-operative

(b) Desired progress towards achievement of the goal of a restructured Co-operative Federation of Australia has not been maintained. The committee agreed a working paper be prepared as a marketing exercise and to assist some State Federation Councils whose membership is divided on the issue.

The committee considered but did not resolve the holding of a national workshop for representative Co-operatives Chairmen and Chief Executives to identify a national sense of purpose.

The committee recommended that N.S.W. and Victoria should commit funds on the same basis as for the current financial year. Those together with members accumulated funds would be used to continue the operations and staffing of the C.F.A. as currently existing up to 31st December 1982 with a review of an on-going commitment to be made by 30th September 1982.

Council recorded its concern at this situation. As one partner in a joint operation the failure of the other partner to plan or discuss alternative arrangements was considered harmful to development of this State Federation.

Council agreed

to accept the proposal that contributions be made to the Co-operative Federation of Australia at the rate of \$7,500 for six months for the period ending 31st December 1982.

Council agreed

The President and Council of the Co-operative

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Federation of Australia be requested to continue the existing programme of operations on the basis of indicated commitments of Victoria and New South Wales up to 31st December 1982 with an ultimate review decision to be made by 30th September 1982.

Council agreed

The President and Council of the Co-operative Federation of Australia be requested to indicate that party's proposals in relation to the joint agreement between that Federation and the Co-operative Federation of Victoria.

Council agreed

That, should the Co-operative Federation of Australia agree to convene a fully representative meeting of all types of Co-operatives to consider the establishment of a truly representative national co-operative body, such a proposal would be supported by the Co-operative Federation of Victoria.

10.iv Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported on a meeting of the committee working for development of Co-operatives in Schools held 15th June. He participated in C.F.A. Steering Committee meeting of 4th June and prepared the Working Paper required by that Committee. He has been involved in discussions on formation of Co-operatives for a Ski Club, Stud Stock breeding, Group Healing Arts Centre. He participated in the Co-operative Societies Advisory Council Meeting.

He has been invited to deliver a paper entitled "Australian Dairy Co-operatives - Today and Tomorrow" to a seminar of Dairy Co-operative Directors organised by the Victorian Dairy Processing Industry Training Committee.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Council agreed

A deputation from the Federation comprising

The Chairman
The Vice Chairman
The Executive Officer

be arranged to call on the State Minister of Agriculture as a briefing on Federation and Co-operative operations in this State.

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12. NEXT MEETING

Monday, 19th July 1982 was set as the date of the next meeting.

13. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.25 p.m.

[Signature] 19.7.82

held at 225 Swa

1. PRESENT

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2. MINUTES

Minutes were col

3. MATTERS

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